

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUBUMB 00100 011751Z

72

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FM AMCONSULATE LUBUMBASHI

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1468

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

UNCLAS LUBUMBASHI 0100

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MINING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT SPECIALIZED
TRADE MISSION

REF: LUBUMBASHI 83

1. CONVERSATION YESTERDAY WITH GECAMINES CHIEF FOR KOLWEZI AREA RAISED SOME POINTS WHICH WARRANT COMMERCE AND STATE ATTENTION IN FIELDING APRIL TRADE MISSION.

2. SPEAKING FRANKLY, HE SAID THAT LAST SPRING'S COMPARABLE MISSION HERE HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTING. NOT ALL COMPANIES REPRESENTATIVES WERE TOP CALIBRE OR THOROUGHLY CONVERSANT WITH THEIR OWN EQUIPMENT. MORE IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, FEW WERE FAMILIAR WITH GECAMINES, ITS PROBLEMS AND ASPIRATIONS, WITH RESULT THAT SOME PRESENTATIONS HAD LITTLE RELEVANCE TO GECAMINES' NEEDS.

3. APRIL TRADE MISSION WILL BE WELCOME, AND COULD BE USEFUL PROVIDED REPRESENTATIVES ARRIVE INFORMED ON THE COMPANY AND ITS EXPANSION PROGRAM. HE URGED THAT ALL PRESENTATIONS BE "EDGE OF THE ART" SINCE GECAMINES IS ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH ALL BUT THE NEWEST AND BEST. HE MENTIONED AS AREAS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST, HYDRO-METALLURGY, CIVIL ENGINEERING, CRUSHERS, (INCLUDING SEMI-MOBILE CRUSHING INSTALLA-
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PAGE 02 LUBUMB 00100 011751Z

TIONS) AND BELT-CONVEYORS.

4. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, ANOTHER SENIOR GECAMINES OFFICIAL SAID COMPANY IS TENDING TO FAVOR AN EVENTUAL CONSORTIUM OF 2 TO 3 BEST QUALIFIED ENGINEERING FIRMS FOR UNIFIED CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM INCLUDING ALL "MODULES" NOW CONTEMPLATED. GECAMINES WOULD NOT BE ADVERSE TO CONTRACTING WITH A SINGLE FIRM BUT THAT, GIVEN SIZE OF THE PROJECT, AROUND 3 HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS, A CONSORTIUM MIGHT BE MORE FEASIBLE SOLUTION.

5. WE NEED INFORMATION ASAP REQUESTED REFTTEL BEFORE REQUESTING GECAMINES CONCURRENCE AND AID. JUNIOR

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